

In the Claims:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

- Sub B1  
a
1. (once amended) A method for manufacturing a pleatable filter material from a thermally bonded non-woven fabric, comprising the steps of:
- forming a fibrous web from drawn and undrawn synthetic fibers;
  - calendering the fibrous web;
  - bonding the fibrous web in a tension-free manner between profiled calender rolls to form the non-woven fabric, without inhomogeneities over the cross-section of the non-woven fabric and without the use of flat bonding;
  - forming spacers in the non-woven fabric to thereby form the filter material.

Remarks

In the office action mailed June 9, 1998, the examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and rejected claims 1-4 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Nakamura et al., Norton, and Shinjou or Schultheiss et al.

In response to the examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 for indefiniteness, applicant above amends claim 1 to address the points set forth in the examiner's rejection. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments overcome the examiner's rejection for indefiniteness, and it is respectfully requested, therefore, that the rejection be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Nakamura et al. in view of Norton and Shinjou et al. or Schultheiss et al. The examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. The examiner asserts that Nakamura et al. does not "teach how the corrugated filter material is formed [and is] silent on calendaring a fibrous web comprising